

This bill is our best attempt, working with the City of New York, the AFL-CIO, and the local community, to put forth a bill that the House could approve, and that would also provide medical monitoring to all who are at risk of illness because of exposure to Ground Zero toxins and treatment to all who are sick, as well as compensating those who sustained economic injuries due to their exposure to Ground Zero toxins. We believe that the revised James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act does just that.

THE TURKISH MILITARY OCCUPATION OF NORTHERN CYPRUS MUST END

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, the illegal Turkish occupation of the northern region of the sovereign state of Cyprus began 34 years ago, and continues to this day.

It must end, and Turkey must remove its forces from Cyprus' territory.

Very commendable efforts are underway by the Cypriot government to achieve a reunification of Cyprus. Meetings are being held with the designated representative for the Turkish Cypriot community to discuss ways to create a federal structure that will ensure the rights and freedoms of all the people of Cyprus.

But, just as the continued illegal occupation of northern Cyprus has to end, Turkey has to play a constructive role in supporting the talks on reunification. In that regard, it is simply not helpful to have Turkish military displays in northern Cyprus, marking the anniversary of the occupation, as took place this past weekend.

It is time for the barricades to come down, for the people who had been forced from their homes decades ago to return, for those who remain missing from the time of the invasion to be accounted for, and for freedom and economic prosperity to be allowed to spread across the beautiful island-country of Cyprus.

I note the anniversary of the Turkish military invasion of Cyprus with great disappointment that the Turkish military continues its illegal occupation.

But I remain hopeful that the voices that are calling for peace and reunification of Cyprus will be heard and will prevail.

Just as the ongoing talks have already led to the reopening of Ledra Street, a key thoroughfare in Nicosia that had been closed for over 40 years, those talks can lead to reunification of all of Cyprus itself, if Turkey takes steps that will support that.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON S. 2062, NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2008

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to statements made on July 17, 2008 referencing the Cherokee Nation and the Freedmen citizenship issue in discussions on the NAHASDA bill. The Cherokee Nation is the second-largest Indian nation within U.S. borders with 280,000 citizens. I represent the largest number of Cherokees in any Congressional District—more than 95,000—and I am proud to serve as their Congressman.

I believe that, regardless of what one thinks about the merits, this is an issue for the courts, and Congress should stay out of the litigation. A current federal court case in Washington, D.C. involving these issues was filed five years ago. Last year, more than 300 people filed suit over these same issues in Cherokee Nation tribal courts. We in Congress need to let the courts do their work without interfering. The Bureau of Indian Affairs similarly has said it will take no action until the courts decide. I cannot help but note the irony that we in Congress or any legislative body generally do all we can to avoid getting involved with litigation until it is finally resolved. This issue should be treated no differently.

That is why I have worked with Chairman FRANK and others to craft compromise language that would allow the Cherokee Nation to continue receiving federal funds until the courts decide. It is not a perfect solution, as I would prefer this Congress avoid establishing the precedent that it is permissible to punish a single tribe for an internal decision. That is a dangerous slippery slope that will ultimately undermine the very meaning of sovereignty when it comes to all Indian tribes.

There is another sad irony here; if the Cherokee Nation were to lose these funds, thousands of my constituents would be hurt, including the Freedmen descendants who have been recently reinstated in the tribe and who are also my constituents. I appreciate the fact that efforts have been aimed at helping them, but the reality of the legislation falls short of that goal if funding were ever to be cut.

The consequences of losing this federal housing funding would be real, damaging and lasting. In 2008 alone, this would mean more than \$30 million. Without it, more than 7,000

low-income Cherokee families would lose their federal housing assistance. Many would lose their homes, precipitating a housing crisis in eastern Oklahoma. The State, which is already stretched, would be forced to pick up the slack. How tragic it would be if the U.S. Congress were once again responsible for removing Native Americans from their homes. Truly, the most responsible and prudent thing we can do is wait for the tribal and federal courts to decide these issues first.

TRIBUTE TO CONLEY NELSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Conley Nelson of Algona, Iowa, for his appointment to the National Pork Board.

Conley was one of five people appointed to the 15-member board at the World Pork Expo at the Iowa State Fairgrounds and will serve a three year term. The National Pork Board, which was created by Congress as part of the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985, is designed to develop budgets and award contracts to carry out projects that bring pork into the marketplace.

Conley is the general manager of the Murphy-Brown LLC Midwest operation. His large-scale operation includes 89,000 sows and markets 3.7 million hogs a year. In addition, he owns a 4,400 head wean-to-finish operation. Conley is a member of the National Checkoff's Pork Leadership Academy and serves on the Iowa Pork Producers board of directors, its Audit Committee, the Membership and Leadership Committees and the Swine Health and Animal Well-Being Committees. He is also a member of both the Kossuth County Pork Producers and Humboldt County Farm Bureau. Conley's broad range of experience and involvement in the pork industry certainly has earned him a position on the National Pork Board, and I am eager to see him excel in his role of helping pork producers across the country.

I commend Conley Nelson for his dedication to his work and congratulate him on his new nomination. I consider it an honor to represent Conley in the United States Congress, and I wish him great success while serving on the National Pork Board.